

City of Burlington Cloth Face Covering Requirement in response to COVID 19

The Use of Cloth Face Coverings for all City of Burlington Employees.

The CDC is now recommending the use of cloth face coverings as one tool in community efforts to slow the spread of COVID -19 and help people who do not know they have the virus from spreading it to others. Because the virus can pass between people interacting in close proximity by speaking, coughing, or sneezing, even if the people have no symptoms of the virus, face coverings can help slow the spread of the virus. However, , but face coverings do not replace the need for hand washing and six-foot social distancing; it is critical to continue to practice those sanitary measures.

Cloth face coverings are not designed to protect the wearer from contracting the virus, but to reduce the likelihood that the wearer, if they have the virus and do not know they have it, will transmit it to others. These face coverings do not contain any filtration system to prevent particles from entering the lungs.

The City of Burlington will provide a cloth face covering to every City employee. We require the use of these face coverings at work, and recommend that you wear one whenever you cannot keep 6 feet of distance from others outside of your household.

Mask Types

N95/ Respirator Masks filter up to 95 % of very small particles (.3 micron). N95 respirators exceed the protections of surgical face masks. However, even a properly fitted N95 respirator does not completely eliminate the risk of illness.

Surgical Mask is a loose-fitting, disposable device that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and potential contaminants in the immediate environment.

Cloth Face Coverings also create a barrier between mouth and nose and can be used to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It does not protect the wearer from contracting the disease.

This policy is intended for the use of cloth face coverings related to the spread of COVID-19 virus and does not replace departmental policies for the use of PPE equipment.

All City employees are required to wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when on duty and in the presence of others, particularly while engaging with the general public.

When an N95 face mask is not required, we strongly recommending using the reusable cloth face coverings so that more N95 face masks can be made available for emergency personnel.

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops • include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

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An indoor scarf or a single layer of cloth is usually not sufficient to meet this policy.

CDC recommendations

Wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

The CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.

Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years of age or on anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

How to clean cloth face coverings

Cloth face coverings should be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly. It is recommended that they be washed daily, depending on the frequency of use. A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

Employees should contact their supervisor or Human Resources Manager if they cannot wear a mask for a medical reason or require a reasonable accommodation because of a disability or religious belief.

This policy is subject to change and is informed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. All changes will be communicated with all employees.

Additional Resources:

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<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>

<https://www.newamericansinvermont.com/important-information>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-and-other-government-agencies>

https://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/voluntaryuse.html